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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,785	04/27/2001	Helen Elizabeth Bryan	1585-273	7329

7590 10/31/2005

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EXAMINER

GRAYSAY, TAMARA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3623

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/842,785

Applicant(s)

BRYAN ET AL.

Examiner

Tamara L. Graysay

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Matter

1. The amendment filed 18 August 2005 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities:

The terms “and wherein” added at paragraph (a) of claim 10 are directly followed by a semicolon and not followed by a description as to what are being further modified and how.

Generally, the wherein clause is further descriptive of a previously recited feature, but in this claim, there is no further description or relation to a previously recited feature. The claim has been treated as though the words are not present.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 10-14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loftus (US-4740349) in view of Tech-Con Twenty Five (cited by applicant, Feb 2000 Presentation to Customers) and further in view of Burdick (US-5625816).

Regarding claims 1-5 and 7-9, Loftus discloses a host computer (C.16, L.30-53) in communication with other computer systems, operating an interactive information management program (software) having graphical image (display monitor screen); a first and second database linked together via the program (C.11-13); and a user terminal for displaying the image and causing retrieval of information corresponding to a feature of the nuclear plant (181, 187, 191, 193, 193). Loftus discloses video image of the fuel rod replacement and assembly process (surveillance of manufacturing floor and training center).

Loftus lacks a user terminal wherein a user can point to a feature to retrieve information from the databases. Loftus further lacks a second database.

As to the first feature, Tech-Con Twenty Five shows, on several pages, a grid from which fuel rods in a reactor can be selected. The fuel rod grid used in order to graphically (or visually) simplify retrieval of information about the fuel cell and/or reactor.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loftus to include a point and select feature, such as suggested by Tech-Con

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Twenty Five, in order to simplify retrieval and review of information about a fuel cell and/or reactor.

As to the second feature, Burdick teaches a plurality of databases to accommodate remote access of the information stored in the databases and speed response time from a local database server (database 106 spread out through a number of database servers logically joined and connected through a network 111, e.g., C.5, L.40-52; and distributing database over a number of database servers on a network provides advantages over centralized databases C.6, L.20-35).

It would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Loftus and Tech·Con Twenty Five to include a second database, such as suggested by the plurality of databases in Burdick, in order to accommodate access to the information in the database via remote data sources.

The combination, as discussed above, includes all the limitation of claims 2-5 and 7-9. In particular, the Tech·Con Twenty Five reference, as applied in the above combination includes depiction of the claimed graphical images and grid arrangements, and video images.

Further regarding claims 1-5 and 7-9, the preamble limitation “to conduct an audit” is broad and encompassed by the combination, because the system of the Loftus, Tech·Con Twenty Five, and Burdick combination is enabled such that a user reviews information contained within the databases for any intended purpose of the user.

Further regarding claim 10, subparagraph limitations (d and e) are not recited in terms of the steps that are being performed in the method of providing remote access, i.e., they lack terms having an “-ing” suffix, so they have been treated as though they are part of the selecting limitation that retrieves and displays data on the remote terminal.

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Further regarding process claims 10-14 and 16-18, the steps of operating a graphical program; accessing information remotely (for example, computer 191 in other department location); and selecting a feature displayed on the image are shown in the Loftus, Tech-Con Twenty Five, and Burdick combination. In particular the Tech-Con Twenty Five reference shows display features that can be selected to view video images of various areas of the nuclear plant, including manufacturing and training.

4. Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Loftus (US-4740349), Tech-Con Twenty Five (cited by applicant, Feb 2000 Presentation to Customers) and Burdick (US-5625806) combination, as applied to claims 1 and 10, above, and further in view of Chang (JP-11085890-A).

Chang teaches the use of a security program, including passwords, encryption keys, and audit trails for accessing specific information contained in a computer database. Security programs are used in order to make communications safe between a user and the computer system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Loftus, Tech-Con Twenty Five, and Burdick combination to include a security program that limits access to information, such as taught by Chang, for accessing specific information contained in the computer database in order to make communications safe between a user and the computer system.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

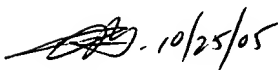
6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamara L. Graysay whose telephone number is (571) 272-6728. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz, can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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